

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed September 4, 2007. By this paper, claims 1-8, 10, and 13 are amended and no claims are cancelled or added. Claims 9 and 12 were previously cancelled and claim 11 was previously withdrawn. Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-15 remain pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicant requests that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Rejection of claims 1 -4, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barmet (United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0139289) in view of Heo (United States Patent Publication No. 2004/0108809). Because neither Barmet nor Heo, either singularly or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of the rejected claims, as is required to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

As shown above, independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite in part that "the flexible conductor defines an opening through which light can enter or leave, the opening defined opposite the optical window." Thus, claims 1 and 3 as amended require that the flexible conductor itself define an opening that is opposite the optical window.

In rejecting independent claims 1 and 3, the Examiner states "the flexible conductor arrangement 10 defining an opening (formed in frame 5) through which light can enter and leave.

Note figure 3 and paragraphs 0030-0031 of Barmet.” Applicant respectfully notes that housing or frame 5 is not a part of flexible tongue 10, which the Examiner alleges corresponds to the flexible conductor as recited in independent claims 1 and 3. As figure 3 of Barmet clearly shows, housing or frame 5 is a separate entity from flexible tongue 10. As taught by Barmet, flexible tongue 10 extends from a side of EL tongue 2 and thus is not a part of housing or frame 5. Accordingly, the opening defined by housing or frame 5 is not defined by flexible tongue 10 and thus does not satisfy the requirements of currently amended independent claims 1 and 3.

Further, it is clear from Barmet, especially figures 2 and 3, that flexible tongue 10 does not define, or can define, an opening through which light can enter or leave. For example, figure 2 and paragraph 0027 teach that flexible tongue 10 is configured to be bent around groove 10a of flat loudspeaker 3. Barmet does not teach that light can pass in and out of flat loud speaker 3. Thus, when flexible tongue 10 is bent around groove 10a, it does not define an opening through which light can enter or leave.

In other embodiments, flexible tongue 10 may be guided through a cut-out 4b formed in a side wall of a frame 4. However, the cut-out 4b is part of frame 4 and not part of flexible tongue 10. Accordingly, cut-out 4b does not satisfy the recited limitations of amended claims 1 and 3. Further, paragraphs 0030 and 0031 that are cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest that flexible tongue 10 defines an opening through which light can enter or leave. At most, Barmet teaches that flexible tongue 10 is an electrical connection for providing electrical signals to film 2.

Heo does not teach or suggest a flexible conductor arrangement that defines an opening through which light can enter or leave and that is “defined opposite the optical window” as recited in amended claims 1 and 3. In addition, Heo is not cited by the Examiner as teaching such. Accordingly, even the alleged combination of Barmet and Heo fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 3.

At least because the Examiner has not demonstrated that Barmet and Heo, either singularly or in combination, teaches a flexible conductor that “defines an opening through which light can enter or leave” and that is “defined opposite the optical window” as recited in

amended claims 1 and 3, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of amended independent claims 1 and 3, and dependent claims 2, 4 and 8, be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of Heo and further in view of Davis (United States Patent No. 5,387,125). Claim 13 depends from claim 1 and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 1. As discussed previously, neither Barnet nor Heo teach that “the flexible conductor arrangement defines an opening through which light can enter or leave, the opening defined opposite the optical window” as recited in claim 1. Davis does not teach this element of claim 1 nor is it cited by the Examiner as teaching such. Accordingly, the purported combination of Barnet, Heo, and Davis fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 13 and the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner’s allowance of claims 14-15 is appreciated. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 5-7 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicant notes that as these claims are dependent on amended independent claim 1 or claim 3, they are also allowable in their present form and therefore the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn for at least reasons discussed above for claims 1 and 3.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that he has addressed every issue raised in the Office Action and have put the claims in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,


ERIC L. MASCHOFF
Registration No. 36,596

SHANE K. JENSEN
Registration No. 55,301
Attorneys for Applicant
Customer No. 022913
Telephone: (801) 533-9800

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